Completion of Golden Quadrilateral

*483. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL :†

DR.T.SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Golden Quadrilateral road project is likely to miss the completion target of December, 2004;

(b) if so, whether over 40 per cent of the contract were awarded after July, 2001;

(c) what are the reasons for delay;

(d) whether any tentative date has been fixed for its completion instead of 2004; and

(e) if so, the efforts being made to complete the project early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The target for completion of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) is December, 2004. Although around 40% of the contracts were awarded after July, 2001, most of the projects on GQ are likely to be completed by December, 2004. Many of these projects are expected to be completed before this date. However, a few projects, such as, Himmatnagar-Chiloda, on National Highway-8 and Allahabad Bypass on National Highway-2 may not be completed by this date.

(c) The main reasons for delay are problems relating to land acquisition, shifting of utilities, quarries; law and order and procedural requirements of external lending agencies.

(d) and (e) No tentative date has been fixed for the completion of GQ instead of 2004. However, the following efforts are being made for early completion of Golden Quadrilateral:

(i) the contracts for works provide for bonus for early completion and penalty for delays;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Jamana Devi Barupal.

(ii) close monitoring of the projects by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Ministry;

(iii) speedy completion of pre-construction activities like land acquisition, tree cutting and shifting of utilities;

(iv) speedy-decision making;

(v) prompt payment to contractors; and

(vi) regular interaction jointly with consultants, builders and NHAI at Minister's level.

श्री मती जमना देवी बारूपाल:सभापति जी, क्या सड़क परिवहन मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि स्वर्णिम चतुर्भुज सड़क परियोजना का लक्ष्य वर्ष 2004 तक पूरा होने की संभावना हैं ? यदि है तो क्यों जुलाई, 2001 के पश्चात् ही 40 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा ठेके दिए गए, इस देरी का क्या कारण है ?

मेजर जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) भुवन चन्द्र खन्डूडी: माननीय सभापति जी, 2004 दिसम्बर का जो लक्ष्य हैं, उसे हम पूरा करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं और मुझे पूरी आशा है कि कुछ एक कार्य को छोड़कर जिसकी वजह मैंने जवाब में विस्तार से दी हैं, हम इसे पूरा कर देंगे। महोदय, यही नहीं इनमें से कुछ 2003 तक पूरे होने वाले हैं जैसे आज तक 1327 किलोमीटर का कार्य पूरा हो चुका है और 4383 पर कार्य चल रहा है। महोदय, दो स्थानों पर काम शुरू नहीं हुआ है जोकि शायद 2004 तक पूरे नहीं होगें, उनमें एक तो गुजरात में चिलौदा का है जहां पर कोर्ट की वजह से 19महीने का विलंब हुआ है और उसका कांट्रेक्ट हम अभी-अभी दे पाए हैं। दूसरा इलाहाबाद बाई-पास का है जिसमें 3 ठेके दिए जाने हैं और विश्व बैंक से पैसा लेकर इसका काम होना हैं। उनकी प्रक्रिया से कुछ जगह छांटनी थी और जो पुल गंगा जी के ऊपर बनना था उसमें दो-तीन ऑप्शंस थे जिसमें बहुत सारे लोगों से पूछना पड़ा। उसकी वजह से विलंब हुआ है। इसके अलावा और दूसरे कार्य हमें समय पर पूरे करने की आशा हैं।

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारूपाल:महोदय,क्या वर्ष 2004 के बजाय इस परियोजना को पूरा करने के लिए कोई अंतिम तिथि निर्धारित की गयी हैं ? यदि हां, तो परियोजना को पूरा करने में कितना समय लगेगा, कृपया विस्तार से बताएं ?

मेजर जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) भुवन चन्द्र खन्डूडी :सर, जैसा कि मैंने अभी बताया कि हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि अधिक-से-अधिक काम वर्ष 2003 तक पूरा करें, लेकिन कुछ कांट्रेक्ट्स 2002 में दिए गए हैं और कुछ ऐसे है जिन पर कुछ कामों की वजह से विलंब है, उनको छोड़कर हम दिसम्बर, 2004 की सीमा को ही लेकर चल रहे हैं।

श्री सभापति :डॉ.टी.सुब्बारामी रेड्डी।

श्री बालकवि बैरागी :सर, इनके आज भी दो क्वैश्चंस हैं।

डॉ.टी.सुब्बारामी रेड्डी: सर, दो नहीं तीन क्वैश्चंस ...(**व्यवधान**) ...

I would like to put a very small question. The Minister has said that it is not possible to complete Allahabad Bypass Road by 2004.1 would like to know when we will, be able to complete it. Secondly, though we have solved the very tough strike of trucks, what is the impact of this strike on the road projects?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: As far as Allahabad Bypass is concerned, I have said that we are still to award the contract and we are trying to expedite it. Three contracts will be given, two for the approaches and one for the bridge. We are trying to expedite but the World Bank terms are such that minimum period of construction is to be given and we have to follow that instruction. Once the contract is given, then only we will be able to specify the exact date.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN ..Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister in how many cases—you have said that one of the incentives given is bonus, and penalties are also levied—you have levied penalty and in how many cases you have given bonus in this completed road of 1327 kilometres.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, I do not have the exact figures or the numbers, but we have given bonuses. In the case of penalties, at the moment, because of various procedures, we have terminated the contract in one case. Otherwise, so far, the penalty has not been imposed because it is only done after completion. Because of various reasons, we do not give them extension, but bonus has been given in a number of cases. I will supply the exact number to the hon. Member.

Speed Post facility in Rajasthan

*484. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Speed Post facility has been provided in the backward areas of Rajasthan;